

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



I hope you have a chance to participate in some of the neighborhood initiatives and other activities described below, and I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Telephone Town Hall – During my Oct. 21st Town Hall Meeting, 8,107 people accepted the call. At peak participation, more than 1,000 people were on the line at the same time, and I spoke with 13 callers. See www.fortlauderdale.gov/TTH/index.htm for more.

Focus on District IV – Staff and I are organizing neighborhood tours of areas with recurring issues, such as code violations and flooding. These afternoon tours will be immediately followed by anti-crime meetings. We plan on mid-January for the first of these events, which will encompass the Edgewood and River Oaks neighborhoods.

Las Olas Mobility Study Public Meeting – Please provide your input on Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 6 - 8 PM at the Riverside Hotel, 620 E. Las Olas. To access the meeting materials, please go to http://fortlauderdale.gov/transportation/whats_happening.html.

Commission Annual Action Plan – Our FY 2013 Action Plan was the culmination of Commission workshops held last year, in anticipation of the FY 2013 Annual Budget. Much progress has been made. Of our 73 initiatives, about 74% are either 'complete' or advancing 'at or above plan,' 21% are progressing but behind original date estimates set during the sessions, and 5% face significant challenges. For the FY 2014 Action Plan, we defined 17 priority initiatives, 12 of which were also priorities of the FY 2013 Plan. These are complex, multi-year projects and several are critical to achieving *Press Play Fort Lauderdale*, the City's 2018 Strategic Plan, and our *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan. Priorities include, for example, a Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, a Downtown Walkability Plan, an Economic Development Strategic Plan, Beach Renourishment, and the Wave Streetcar. Our long-term vision is to be "the city you never want to leave," which brings me to "Our City in the News" ...

Our City in the News –

- Livability.com has named the City as one of the "Top 100 Best Places to Live." Fort Lauderdale ranked 24th on the list nationwide and third in the State of Florida.
- Fort Lauderdale was 8th among the 10 Great Cities for Family Vacations, according to a reader survey conducted by Family Vacation Critic, an online family travel planning guide. Fun attractions, family-friendly and affordable accommodations, and easy-to-navigate public transportation were key considerations.
- *Money Magazine* has recognized Fort Lauderdale as one of America's "Top 10 Best Places to Retire." The City offers desirable attributes important to retirees, such as climate, natural beauty, quality of life, a variety of cultural and entertainment amenities, and top-rated health-care facilities.
- In its 2013 - 2014 rankings, *Foreign Direct Investment Magazine* ranked the City among the "Top 10 Small American Cities of the Future." The publication listed Fort Lauderdale as the 7th Best Small American City of the Future for economic potential.
- Citing Citrix Systems and the Heico Corporation, the Fort Lauderdale area was 16th in the "hottest hub" ranking recently released by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, which studies entrepreneurship.

Event Calendar –

- **Light Up Lauderdale** is set for Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6:30 PM in Esplanade Park. Mayor Seiler will flip the switch for the holiday lights along Riverwalk and the tree in Huizenga Plaza.
- Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale's next **Get Downtown** will be held Thursday, Nov. 21 from 5 - 8 PM at YOLO Plaza.
- **Light Up the Beach** will be on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 6:30 PM, A1A and E. Las Olas, followed by the Holiday Concert at 7 PM at DC Alexander Park, 501 Seabreeze Boulevard.
- **Winterfest Family Fun Day** is on Sunday, Nov. 24 at the Riverside Hotel Lawn, 620 E. Las Olas, from Noon to 4 PM. The **Boat Parade** is set for Saturday, Dec. 14. See <http://www.winterfestparade.com>.
- **Christmas on Las Olas** is from 5 - 10 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 3 between SE 6th and 11th avenues.
- **Lauderdale Live Music Festival** will run from Friday, Dec. 6 to Sunday, Dec. 8 in Esplanade Park and Huizenga Plaza. Capacity is limited. For details and tickets, see www.lauderdalelivemusic.com.
- **The Joint Commission/Historic Preservation Board Workshop** on the ordinance rewrite will be held on Monday, Jan. 6 at 7 PM in the 8th Floor Conference Room at City Hall (following my Pre-Agenda Meeting).

* For appointments, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.